

mocracy” on it. So it’s my souvenir from your inauguration, Mr. President, and it’s a great day for you and a great day for all of us who believe in freedom and who support you.

President Preval. Mr. President, on behalf of the Haitian people, I thank you very much for this call. I know that you are so much busy that I appreciate very much this gesture.

[At this point President Preval spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.]

I’m going to be more comfortable if I continue in French, Mr. President.

President Clinton. Please do.

President Preval. As you, yourself said, you played a very great role amid the U.N. effort to help restore democracy in Haiti, and we thank you for that. We have been independent for 193 years, and this is the very first time that one President transfers power to another democratically elected President.

But as you very well know, the challenges before me are enormous, because democracy cannot take place without economic development. And on the economic front, we are going to make every effort that we possibly can to give satisfaction to the Haitian people. And in particular, we would like to invite American investors to come to Haiti to invest.

Our police is yet weak, and we certainly want to strengthen it to consolidate it still further in order to safeguard security in Haiti.

Mr. President, I know how terribly busy you are, and as disappointed as the Haitian people were that you weren’t able to be here, when they hear that you have called, they will, I am sure, be truly delighted.

Merci beaucoup.

President Clinton. *Merci*, Mr. President. You tell them that I’m still supporting them and their freedom, and the United States is still supporting them, and we will do what we can to encourage investment, to get the economic development going and, as you know, we want to continue to provide some support through civil engineering and infrastructure projects and some other things that we can do consistent with the ongoing partnership that we want to have with our two

countries. So we will be there with you, and we’re excited for this day and ready for the work ahead.

President Preval. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Clinton. Have a wonderful evening. It’s a great day for you.

President Preval. And I hope that we’ll have the pleasure to meet very soon.

President Clinton. Yes, I do, too. I’m looking forward to that.

President Preval. Thank you very much.

President Clinton. Thank you, and good-bye. Thank you.

President Preval. Thank you to your family.

President Clinton. Thank you.

NOTE: The conversation began at 4:16 p.m. The President spoke from the Oval Office at the White House.

Proclamation 6865—150th Anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution

February 7, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

When James Smithson, an English scientist, died in 1829, he gave his entire estate “to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.” This extraordinary gift, amounting to one and one-half times the Federal budget of the day, led to passage of an Act of Congress establishing the Smithsonian Institution. Signed by President James Polk on August 10, 1846, this legislation created a Board of Regents to oversee the execution of Smithson’s trust.

Today, 150 years later, the Smithsonian Institution is famed around the globe, and its collections are enjoyed by thousands of Americans and foreign visitors every day. Through dedicated original research, the preservation of an unequalled collection of artifacts, and the presentation of public exhibitions and programs, the Smithsonian truly embodies its benefactor’s dream. As one of

the foremost repositories of American heritage and culture, the Institution provides unique insight into our history and the development of our vibrant national character.

As we celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Smithsonian Institution, let us recognize the work done by its many museums, research facilities, and educational endeavors and rededicate ourselves to the "increase and diffusion of knowledge" James Smithson sought to advance. In doing so, we can more fully explore the wonders of our world and continue to bring people together for the common pursuit of knowledge.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and in honor of the memory of James Smithson and to commemorate the accomplishments of the Smithsonian Institution, do hereby proclaim August 10, 1996, as the 150th Anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution and urge the people of the United States to observe this anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:01 a.m., February 8, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 9.

Remarks on Signing the Telecommunications Act of 1996 February 8, 1996

Thank you very much. Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, and ladies and gentlemen: I'd like to begin by thanking the Library of Congress for hosting us here. It's my understanding this may be the only time in American history a piece of legislation has been signed here, and perhaps the first time in three decades when

one has been signed on Capitol Hill. If that is so, then this is certainly a worthy occasion.

I thank Lily Tomlin for reminding us that the Internet can be fun—[laughter]—and the students at Calvin Coolidge for reminding us that the Internet can do a world of good.

I thank the Vice President, who fought for this bill for so long on behalf of the American people. And I thank the Members of Congress in both parties, starting with the leadership, who believed in the promise and the possibility of telecommunications reform. I thank the vast array of interest groups who had sometimes conflicting concerns about this bill who were able to work together and work through them so that we could move this together.

This law is truly revolutionary legislation that will bring the future to our doorstep. In the State of the Union, just a few days ago, I asked the Congress to pass this law, and they did with remarkable speed and dispatch. Even the years that were spent working on it were a relatively short time given the tradition of congressional decisionmaking over major matters.

This historic legislation in my way of thinking really embodies what we ought to be about as a country and what we ought to be about in this city. It clearly enables the age of possibility in America to expand to include more Americans. It will create many, many high-wage jobs. It will provide for more information and more entertainment to virtually every American home. It embodies our best values by supporting the kind of market reforms that the Vice President mentioned, as well as the V-chip. And it brings us together, and it was passed by people coming together.

This bill is an indication of what can be done when Republicans and Democrats work together in a spirit of genuine cooperation to advance the public interest and bring us to a brighter future.

It is fitting that we mark this moment here in the Library of Congress. It is Thomas Jefferson's building. Most of you know President Jefferson deeded his books to our young Nation after our first library was burned to the ground in the War of 1812. The volumes that line these walls grew out of Jefferson's